

## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW HELICOID FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

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ONE of our Australian members, Mr. E. H. Matthews, recently forwarded to Mr. Robson twenty specimens of a small Helicoid, with the request to submit them to me for examination. He stated that they had been collected for him by Mr. J. A. Mayer amongst the Melaleuca swamp of the south-east portion of South Australia, near Millicent, a place not far from the coast, some 200 miles south-east from Adelaide. Mr. Matthews was at first inclined to think they had found *H. penolensis*, Cox, but on comparison he came to the conclusion that he was unable to identify the specimens.

After a careful scrutiny of all known species from the southern portion of the Australian Continent, I have satisfied myself that the shell in question pertains to an undescribed form. It certainly has no affinity with *H. penolensis*. I have been considerably exercised in my mind, moreover, as to its generic position, since I do not know any Australian form with which to class it, and I was struck with its general resemblance to the Palearctic species *Helicella* (*Candidula*) *conspurecata* (Drap.), recorded from Portugal, the Balearic Islands, the South of France, Italy, Sicily, Malta, Dalmatia, Greece, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco. As the members of this genus are noted for their ability to withstand protracted periods of drought, the possibility of their having been transported from some Mediterranean port and introduced into South Australia in this manner is by no means excluded, especially as the spot where they were taken is only some 20 miles from the nearest seaport. As several of the shells contain the animal, Mr. Robson has kindly undertaken to examine their anatomy, and it will be interesting to learn whether my surmise will be borne out by his investigation. Under these circumstances I propose tentatively to refer this form to the section *Candidula* of *Helicella*.

While its general resemblance to *H. conspurecata* possibly affords a clue as to its generic position, the South Australian shell is sufficiently distinct to warrant its being regarded as a new species. It is more elevated in the spire, the whorls are more tumid, the aperture is higher in proportion to its width, and the bristles are more crowded and shorter.

I propose to dedicate the new species to its discoverer.

## HELICELLA (CANDIDULA) MAYERI, n.sp.

Shell moderately umbilicated, conoid, dull, pale fuscous, variously ornamented with darker bands more or less interrupted by pale ochraceous transverse streaks or blotches, rufous corneous behind the aperture; the first whorl shining and smooth, the remainder lustreless, finely striated, densely covered with short bristles. Spire rather

elevated, apex blunt, suture deep. Whorls 5, rather tumid, evenly rounded, increasing slowly and regularly; aperture slightly oblique, nearly semicircular, margins acute, straight, columellar margin



Magnified about 4 times.

dilated and slightly overhanging the moderate, deep umbilicus. Diam. maj. 6.5, min. 5.75 mm.; alt. 4.75 mm.

*Hab.*—Millicent, South Australia (? introduced).

Type in the Adelaide Museum. Co-types in the British Museum.